

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 2, 12 and 19 have been cancelled and claims 1, 3, 11, 13, 18 and 20 have been amended. Thus, claims 1, 3-11, 13-18 and 20 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In item 5 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claims 2-3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in order to expedite allowance of the application, claim 2 has been cancelled, and claim 1 has been amended to incorporate therein all of the limitations of claim 2. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 4-10 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-10 are clearly allowable in view of the indication of allowable subject matter in item 5 on page 3 of the Office Action.

Applicant and his undersigned Attorney wish to thank the Examiner for the helpful telephone conference conducted on June 24, 2005. In the telephone conference, it was noted that the non-elected claim 11 amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 12 will include all of the limitations included in the combination of claims 1 and 2, and should therefore also be considered allowable in view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the combination of claims 1 and 2. Similarly, it was noted that the non-elected claim 18 amended to include the limitations of claim 19 will also include all of the limitations set forth in the combination of claims 1 and 2. The Examiner thus kindly indicated that, in view of such inclusion of all of the limitations of the allowable combination of claims 1 and 2 being included in an amended claim 11, as well as in an amended claim 18, such amended claims 11 and 18 would be re-joined and allowed upon canceling claims 12 and 19.

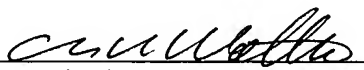
Accordingly, claims 12 and 19 have been cancelled, the limitations of claim 12 have been incorporated into independent claim 11, the limitations of claim 19 have been incorporated into independent claim 18, claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 11, and claim 20 has been amended to depend from claim 18. Accordingly, it is submitted that all of the claims 11, 13-18 and 20 are also allowable in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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